

III. REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7-12, 17-21 and 26-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 12, 21, 26-28 and 30 have been amended, and claims 4-6, 14-16 and 23-25 have been cancelled. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and the objection and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 26-28 are objected to as improperly depending from a cancelled claim. By this Amendment, claims 26-28 have been revised to resolve this condition. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 21 and 30 have also been revised to correct typographical errors.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 16 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, allowable features of claims 6, 16 and 25 are added into the independent claims 1, 12 and 21, respectively, and independent claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claimed subject matter.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over Ikeda (US Pub. No. 2004/0096092) in view of Papadopoulou (USPN 6,317,859) as cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and

cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Spencer K. Warnick/

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